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Talking Points
Draft Yucca Mountain EIS Hearing
November 9, 1999
Caliente, Nevada

EIS000235

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1. [The Lincoln County/City of Caliente repository oversight program has adopted the following goals:

- to understand and minimize risk;
- to understand and minimize impacts;
- to understand and maximize benefits of DOE radioactive waste management activities in Nevada.

I believe these goals should also be driving the federal government's radioactive waste management activities. I agree with these goals and am concerned that DEIS does not provide adequate information to enable the County and City or DOE and the NRC to accomplish such goals. The Final EIS should provide adequate information to enable accomplishment of each of these three goals.]

2. [Information contained within Table 2-7 of the Draft EIS suggests that during the first 100 years, moving radioactive waste to Nevada does not reduce fatalities. If the national waste management program is intended to protect public health and safety, then it would appear that leaving the waste at generator sites and pursuing other management options has merit.] Assuming that the Nation will move the waste to the Yucca Mountain site, such an action will shift risks to Nevada. Many areas of the Nation will become risk free. The Draft EIS does not address the disequitable distribution of risk which will attend the Yucca Mountain project. The Final EIS should identify methods for mitigating/compensating Nevadan's for bearing the risks that the rest of the Nations does not want.]

3. [The Draft EIS does not describe the type of staff that will be required to operate an intermodal facility in Caliente. Such staff will presumably include persons with training in the proper handling of radioactive materials (ie. radiation health physicist) and emergency first response. The availability of specialists in Caliente would provide a capability to manage risks associated with other hazardous materials being shipped through the community every day by rail. The Final EIS should characterize the types of specialists who would be required at an intermodal facility and how their presence in Caliente would help to manage existing risks from shipments of hazardous materials through the community.]

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4. The Draft EIS indicates that many new jobs will be created in the Caliente area as a result of intermodal activities in the community. The Draft EIS does not estimate how many additional residents will reside in the community as a result of these new employment opportunities. The Final EIS should include estimates of the number of new residents, by age, who will relocate to the Caliente area. In addition, the Final EIS should include predictions on how many additional school children will result and what impact, if any, new residents will have on existing infrastructure (ie. water, sewer, electric).
5. Residents of Caliente and the balance of Lincoln County already face risks associated with transport of hazardous and radioactive materials via rail and truck. The Draft EIS should include a comparison of existing risk and risk associated with shipments of spent nuclear fuel through Lincoln County. The extent to which Section 180(c) and other DOE funded enhancements to local emergency response capabilities might reduce risk below even existing levels should be addressed within the Final EIS.
6. Recently Lincoln County and the City of Caliente have completed a Radiological Emergency Response Plan for the Grover C. Dils Medical Center. The Draft EIS is silent on the need for local emergency medical capabilities. The Final EIS should include an evaluation of existing emergency medical capabilities in Lincoln County and provide recommendations for needed enhancements. The Final EIS should consider implementation of the Radiological Emergency Response Plan for the Grover C. Dils Medical Center as a possible mitigation measure.